

Ciba



January 22, 2001

Mr. Frank Battaglia (2 copies)
USEPA Region I
Office of Site Remediation and Restoration (HBT)
JFK Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

RCRA RECORDS CENTER
FACILITY Ciba GenCorp
I.D. NO. RID001194323
FILE LOC. R-1C
OTHER _____

**Re: Quarterly Progress Report for October, November, and December 2000
Ciba Specialty Chemicals, 180 Mill Street, Cranston, RI 02905
EPA ID RID001194323**

Dear Mr. Battaglia:

As required by the modified Consent Decree (CD) of September 28, 1992, I am submitting a stabilization progress report for the third quarter of 2000. Included along with the quarterly report is the Semiannual Monitoring Report for the September 2000, well sampling episode at the referenced facility.

1.0 SUMMARY

Stabilization Plan (IRM)

- **Contaminated groundwater in the Production Area (AOC 13)** -- The groundwater extraction wells 110, 120, and 130 and the pretreatment system are operating at near capacity.

Since initiation on September 29, 1995, the groundwater stabilization pretreatment plant has processed approximately 159 million gallons of contaminated groundwater meeting the permit wastewater discharge limits for the City of Cranston, Rhode Island.

Ciba received a new 5 year Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit from the Department of Public Works effective October 7, 2000.

- **Soil in the Production Area (SWMU 11)** -- A new thermal oxidizer (TO) was installed to treat VOAs at the site during September 2000. Startup testing of the unit occurred in October and performance testing was completed on October 11, 2000.



2.0 DISCUSSION

Semiannual Monitoring Report

A Semiannual Monitoring Report covering the sampling and analysis for September 2000, is complete. The results of the sampling show 1,2-dichlorobenzene and chlorobenzene exceeding the Media Protection Standards (MPS) in 5 wells, 3 wells are along the bulkhead and 2 wells opposite the bulkhead in the river. Since the previous monitoring episode performed in April 2000, MPS exceedances have increased from 5 to 7. Possible changes in the groundwater matrix at some monitoring wells may be due to the recent (January 2000) incorporation of a third extraction well along the bulkhead.

SVE/Thermal Oxidizer


On October 11, 2000, Ciba documented greater than 99% destruction efficiency by the Thermal Oxidizer unit (test report previously provided to USEPA and RIDEM). The SVE/TO system unit was operated in a shake-down mode during the remainder of October and during most of November to remedy programming glitches caused by the thermal oxidizer/SVE unit interface and to resolve mechanical/electrical issues associated with the reactivation of the SVE systems. Operation of the unit was suspended during December while new water level sensors were purchased. Installation of the sensors and startup of the system should be completed during early part of January 2001.

3.0 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

- Next semiannual groundwater monitoring episode April 2001

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me at 732 914-2537 or fax 732 914-2909.

Sincerely,


Barry Cohen
Projector Coordinator

Attachment: 1

Monthly Report Distribution List

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